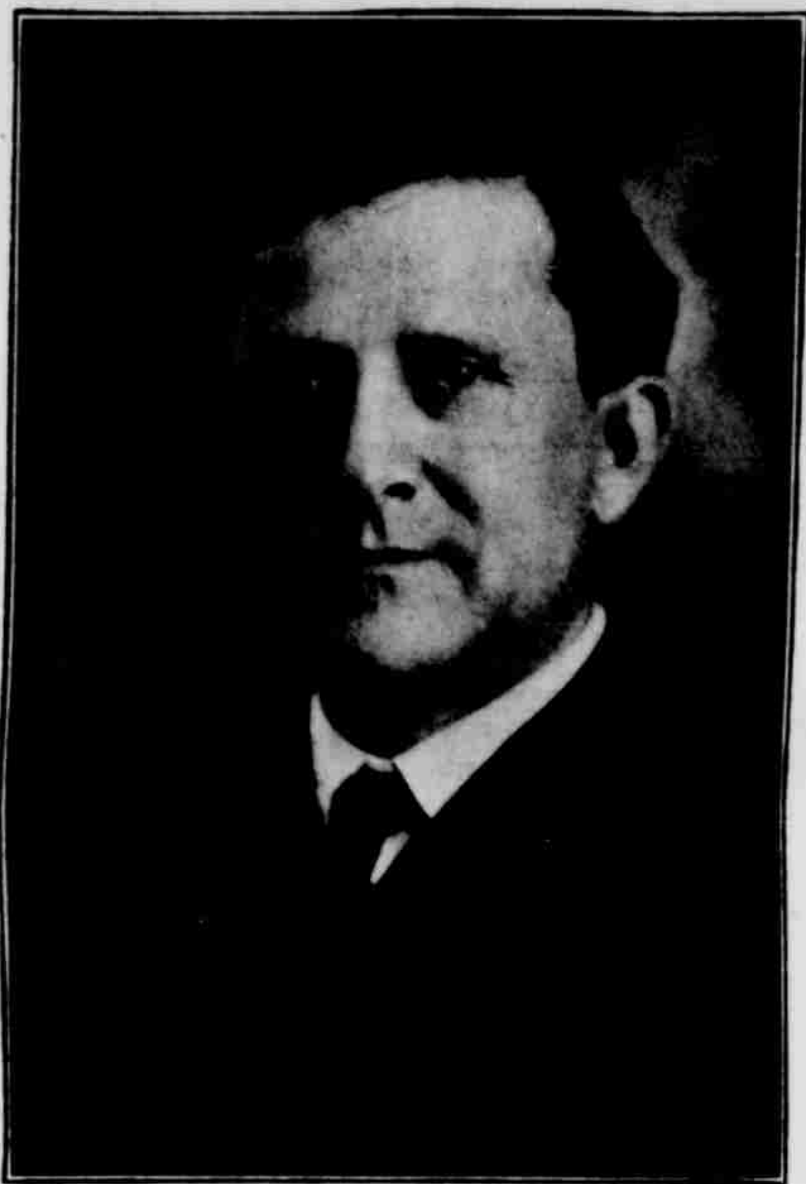


Texas?—What Do You Know About It? Here Are Some Surprising Facts

By H. O. BISHOP



SENATOR MORRIS SHEPPARD

He is from Texas, and says his is not only the biggest, but the best state in the Union, and makes some very interesting statements.

THE ideas that many Americans have concerning other sections of their country are oftentimes very strange and amusing. There's Texas, for instance. In the opinion of the average person living in the eastern or northern states, Texas is nothing more than a vast barren, open space where they raise nothing but cotton, cattle, jackrabbits, buzzards and trouble.

It seems they are greatly mistaken.

Senator Morris Sheppard, who has gained national fame and criticism as the author of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which forever banishes booze beyond its boundaries, recently enthusiastically referred to his state as being the greatest of all the 48 commonwealths.

When asked by one of his hearers to give some reasons for such a sweeping declaration, the Senator made these statements:

"Of course everybody has heard of Texas oil, but few know that something like \$200,000,000 worth of oil is being produced in Texas this year, and that the oil fields are just getting well under way. Almost every day a new well is brought in in a new section, thus broadening the field to record-breaking proportions. The vastness of this oil production may be better realized when you consider that the output for the past year was worth three times all the gold produced throughout the United States during 1918, and three times all the silver produced during the same period. (The gold and silver figures for 1919 are not yet available.) It is confidently expected that within a year or two the annual oil crop of Texas will exceed the total gold and silver output of the country.

Cotton Exceeds Even the Oil

"BUT oil is a secondary item in my state as compared with the value of the cotton crop. The 1919 Texas cotton crop, including the cotton seed, was worth \$547,500,000. Now please do not lose sight of the startling fact that our cotton is worth more than twice as much as the oil, despite the fact that the newspapers and magazines are devoting pages to Texas oil and practically nothing to Texas cotton. And a still more startling fact that I'd like you to remember is that our last cotton crop was worth exactly \$3,261,033 more than all of the gold and silver mined in the entire world in 1918. According to official figures given out by the Bureau of Mines of the Interior Department such world production of gold and silver was worth \$544,239,967.

"Texas, with the exception of one state, produces annually five times as much cotton as any other state, and more than twice as much as that state. If it were not for Texas cotton, a goodly portion of the population of the world would be obliged to go shirtless, sockless, skirtless, tableclothless, sheetless and handkerchiefless. Automobiles would have to be made without tops, curtains or seats, because cotton is the principal item used in their manufacture.

"Texas is so large that it comprises 8.7 per cent of the area of the United States. Texas has a coast line of 400 miles, as far as from New York to Buffalo. Texas has 265,700 square miles of territory. That is five times as large as New York, 212 times as large as Rhode Island, and almost nine times as large as Scotland.

"There is one ranch in Texas, owned by Mrs. Henrietta King, that is larger than either Delaware, Connecticut or Rhode Island. It is 44 miles in width and 147 miles in length, comprising more than 1,000,000 acres.

"Last year, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, Texas led all other states in the value of farm products. The value of farm products of the three leading states follow: Texas,

\$1,100,000,000; Iowa, \$861,000,000; Illinois, \$813,000,000. One of the outstanding crops of Texas is that of the onion. Each year Texas raises enough onions to supply a half dozen to every man, woman and child in the country. More than 20,000 acres of rich land are devoted exclusively to onion ranches. The last crop totaled a little more than 6,000 carloads, which required the services of 120 locomotives pulling 50 cars each. Almost 50,000,000 pounds of onions were devoured by the American soldiers during the war.

"Texas has long been the second state in the growing of rice, producing a \$12,000,000 crop last year. Louisiana is slightly in the lead.

"Peanuts are grown in Texas to a larger extent than in any other state. Twenty million dollars' worth of them are grown annually.

"While the people of the northern and eastern states were still floundering around in the snow, Texas farmers were shipping out delicious watermelons and big red strawberries by the trainload.

"Enough honey is produced in Texas lusciously to spread over the surface of all the griddle cakes, waffles, cornbread and hot biscuit baked by all the wives from Washington, D. C., to Alaska. One of the interesting features concerning Texas honey is the fact that more of it is shipped from the beautiful little city of Uvalde, the home town of Congressman John Nance Garner, than from any other one place on the American continent. The wild flowers are so prolific in Texas that the bees are enabled to work at their profession all the year round.

"Twice as many cattle are raised in Texas as in any other state. If they could all be converted into one mammoth cow, she would be so large that she could leisurely swish her tail around the South Pole as she bumped the snow from her horns against the North Pole. If a dairymaid of sufficiently gigantic proportions could be secured, she could use a peak of the Andes for a milking stool and easily extract enough milk from that colossal bossy to float every ship in the navies of the world through the Panama Canal, with enough left over to take care of the new canal that is being advocated by Secretary of War Baker.

Whenever and wherever you see a man arrayed in a neat mohair suit of clothes, you may rest assured that the mohair in it was grown on the back of a Texas goat. In one section of Texas alone, there are more than 2,000,000 goats.

"I have mentioned just a few of the many wonderful things we produce in Texas along the line of crops and animals. I will now tell you a few surprising things about our mineral resources. Seventy per cent of the nation's sulphur is mined in Texas, from seemingly inexhaustible mines at the town of Freeport at the mouth of the Brazos River; and the Brazos River, by

the way, is the longest stream within any single state. Its length is greater than from Baltimore to Chicago.

"A fourth of the nation's output of quicksilver is obtained in one county in Texas.

"Texas is sixth in the production of gypsum, used not only as a fertilizer but in many manufactures.

"Go as far west of Vermont as you please and you will find no finer or larger deposits of granite than abound in Texas.

"An entire mountain of graphite was discovered in Texas during the war and is now being mined and manufactured in large quantities. The former owner of this land, a well-known cattleman, bought 1,000 acres years ago, paying twelve dollars an acre for it, and used it as a pasture. He sold 75 acres of it for \$75,000 spot cash. He still uses the remaining 925 acres for pasturage, which is doubtless the most valuable land in the country used for that purpose.

Other Products

"THERE are no greater salt deposits in the United States than in Texas. There is enough rich iron ore in East Texas eventually to make that section a second Pittsburg.

"Texas is conceded to have the greatest deposits of rare earth metals of any state, metals that in Europe are used in many chemical and commercial manufactures.

"Immense deposits of brick and tile clay and cement materials are found in various localities.

"One of the biggest things in Texas is the vast supply of lignite coal. There are 30,000,000,000 tons of it in sight. According to the experts of the Bureau of Mines of the Interior Department, this coal can be briquetted and enough by-products extracted to make every ton worth sixteen dollars.

"It is always a great surprise to most people to learn that Texas stands sixth in the number of saw-mills and lumber production.

"No state in the Union is building good roads as rapidly as Texas.

"Climate? Why, bless your souls, Texas can sport every variety that has ever been invented. Frequently when the snow is flying in the Panhandle section of the state, little kiddies and fond lovers in South Texas are plucking the first violets of springtime, while others are feasting on fried chicken at open air picnics. There are times in midsummer when its gets pretty hot in some sections, but the cool, soothing breezes from the Gulf have an unfailing habit of spreading themselves over the state every night about bedtime, thus enabling the folks to sleep like babes.

"Such things as sunstrokes are absolutely unknown in Texas."

JUST ONIONS



One of the large onion ranches in Texas.